

What is the “Disabled Child in Home Care” or “Katie Beckett” program?

This is a Medicaid program. It is for children in families that usually have too much income to meet Medicaid rules. It lets children with disabilities get daily nursing or other professional care at home. It does **not** count the parent’s income or assets. The child must need the care they would normally only get in an institution. See #4 below to see more about this. It is called the Katie Beckett program after the first child to get it.

What are the rules for this program?

1. The child must be under age 19.
2. Social Security’s Disability Determination Section must say the child is disabled.
3. The **child’s** income and assets must meet Medicaid rules. **The parent’s income and assets don’t count.**
4. The child must need care on a daily basis. It must be the kind of care normally only given in a:
 - Hospital **OR**
 - Skilled Nursing Facility **OR**
 - Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with an Intellectual Disability (ICF/IID) **OR**
 - Psychiatric Hospital
5. The child’s doctor must document the level of care the child needs. The doctor must say that this care can be given at home.
6. Home care must cost the same or less than care in an institution.

What is an institutional level of care? It means the kind of care usually only given in an institution. See #4 above for the four kinds of institutions this covers. Care includes services, professional know-how, and technology. Does the child need intensive behavioral services (non-psychiatric), occupational therapy, and/or physical therapy? Alone, this is not enough to meet the level of care rules.

How does Vermont Medicaid decide if my child needs an institutional level of care? A trained clinician will assess your child’s needs. **Beginning January 1, 2024**, Vermont Medicaid will use a new assessment tool. It is similar to what many other states do. It looks at the care needed for each of the 4 kinds of institutions. You can see the tool on



[the Agency of Human Services website](#). The new assessment tool does **not** change the legal standard for qualifying.

Make sure this program will work for your family

Talk to your child's doctor and ask lots of questions about what will be needed. Nurses, therapists, or other professionals will be in and out of your home. The schedule must work for everyone. Is there enough room for them to care for your child? How often do they need to be there? Will special equipment be needed? If your child needs a hospital bed, will it fit in your home? Can you or a responsible adult supervise and help with care as needed?

If you apply and your child meets the rules for the program

You will get a letter telling you the start date.

If we decide your child doesn't meet the rules for the program

You will get a letter saying your child doesn't meet the rules. If you disagree, you can ask for a State Fair Hearing. The letter will tell you how to ask for this. You must make this request within 90 days. The Human Services Board will hear your case. **Is your child already on Katie Beckett?** Then you can ask that they stay on it **while you appeal**. You must ask for this within 10 days.

Want to find out more about the Katie Beckett program or apply? Call [1-800-250-8427](tel:1-800-250-8427).